

THE ALL-NEW, ALL-AWESOME

52

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image

INVINCIBLE



ROBERT KIRKMAN
RYAN OTTLEY
CLIFF RATHBURN
FCO PLASCENCIA

RYAN
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image

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image® COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE™

ROBERT KIRKMAN

WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY

PENCILER

CLIFF RATHBURN

INKER

FCO PLASCENCIA

COLORIST

RUS WOOTON

LETTERER

COVER BY RYAN OTTLEY & BILL CRABTREE

CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER

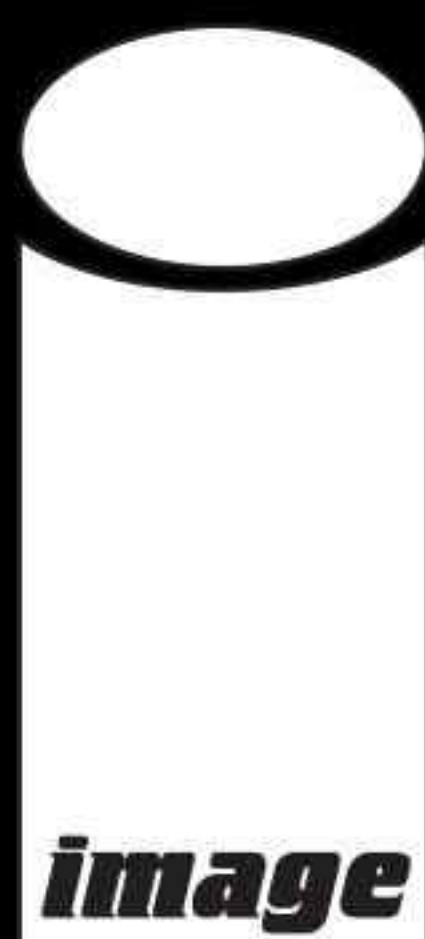


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PRINTED IN CANADA.





I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WORKED--

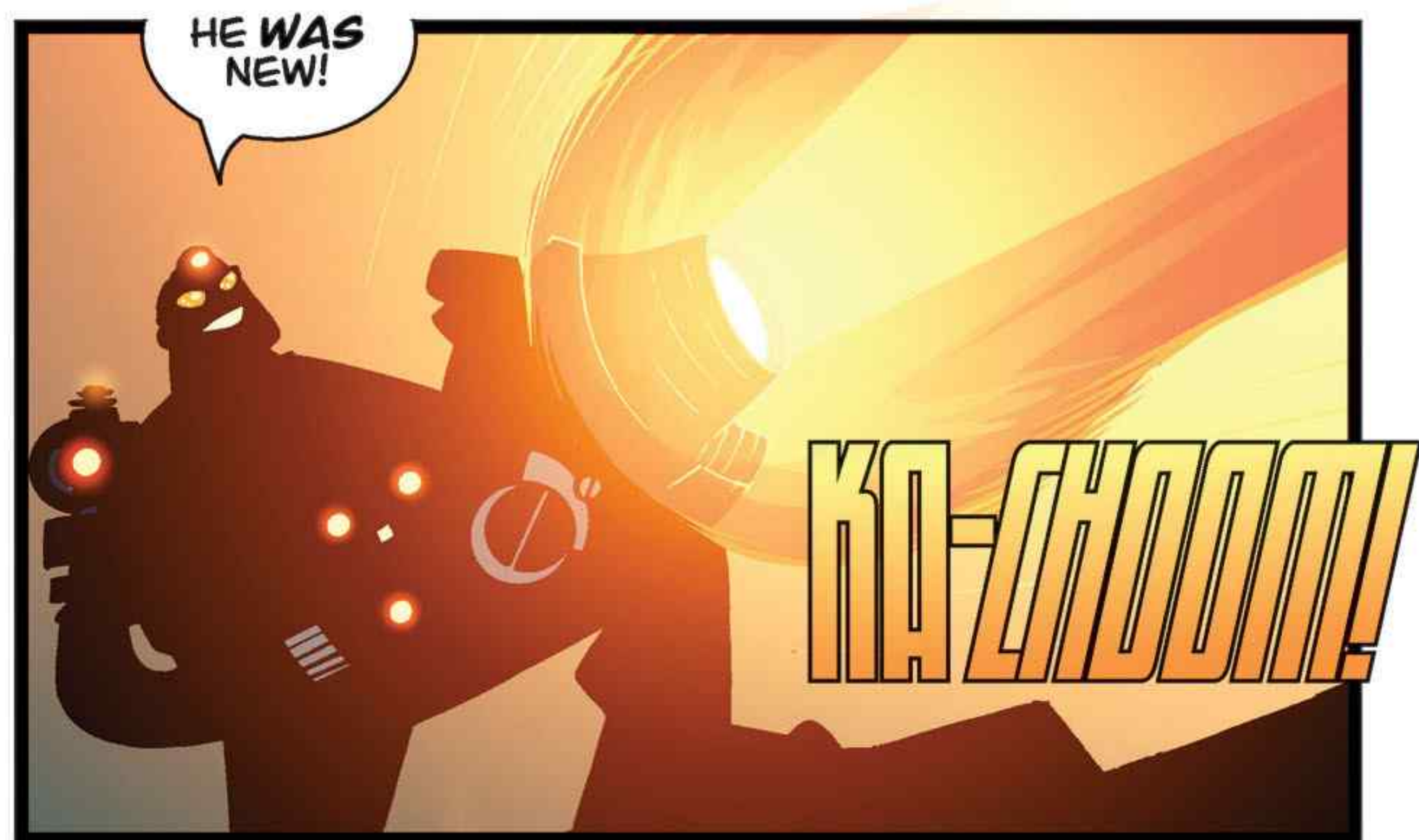
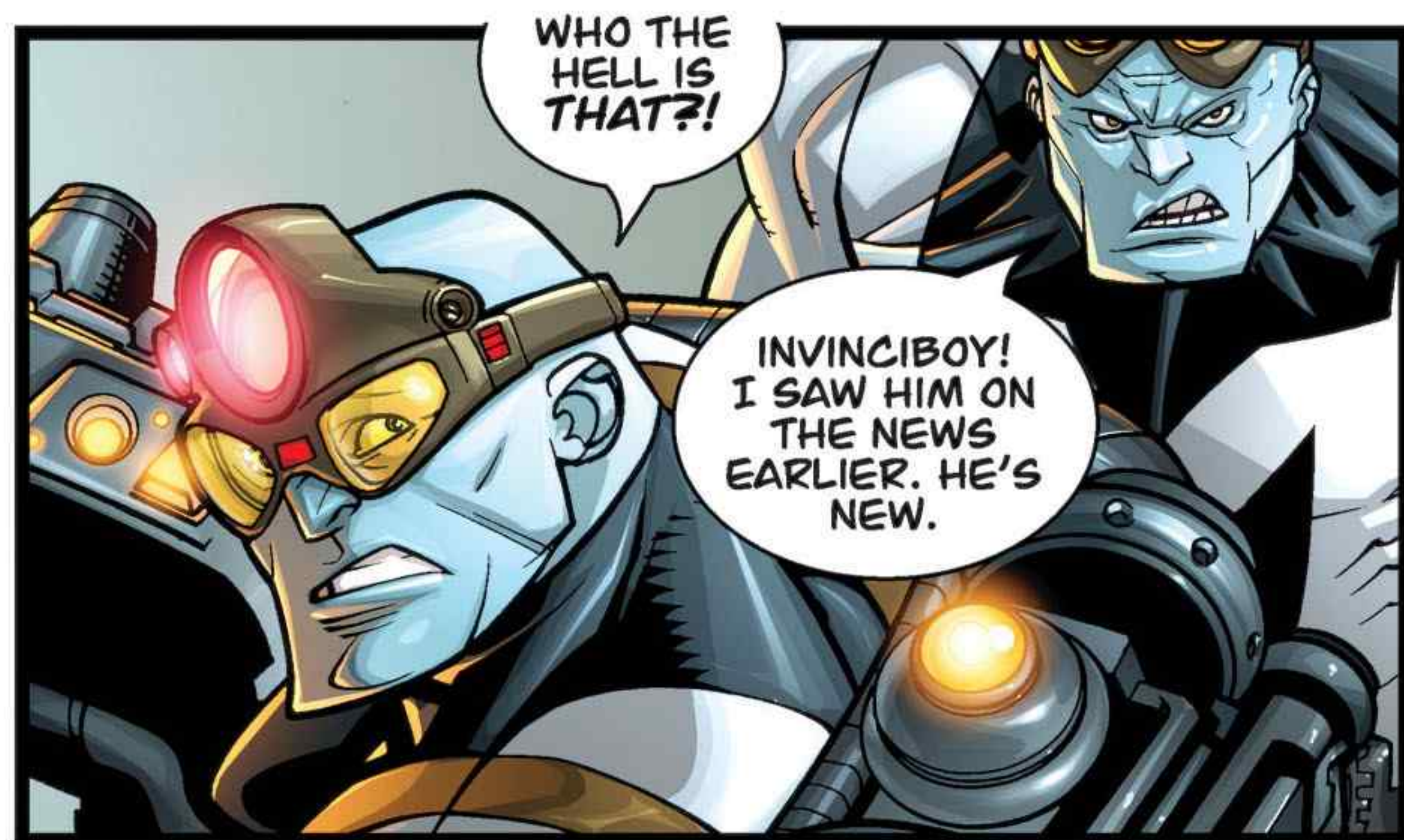
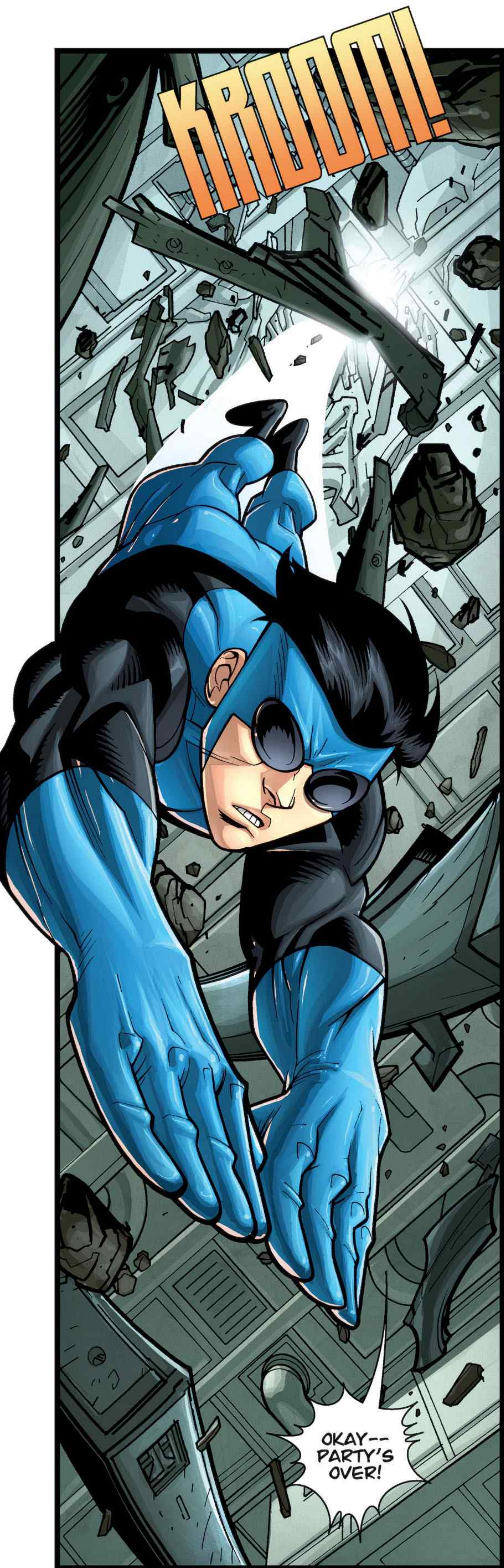
OF COURSE IT WORKED. WE BUILT THAT GUN. I TOLD YOU IT WOULD WORK.

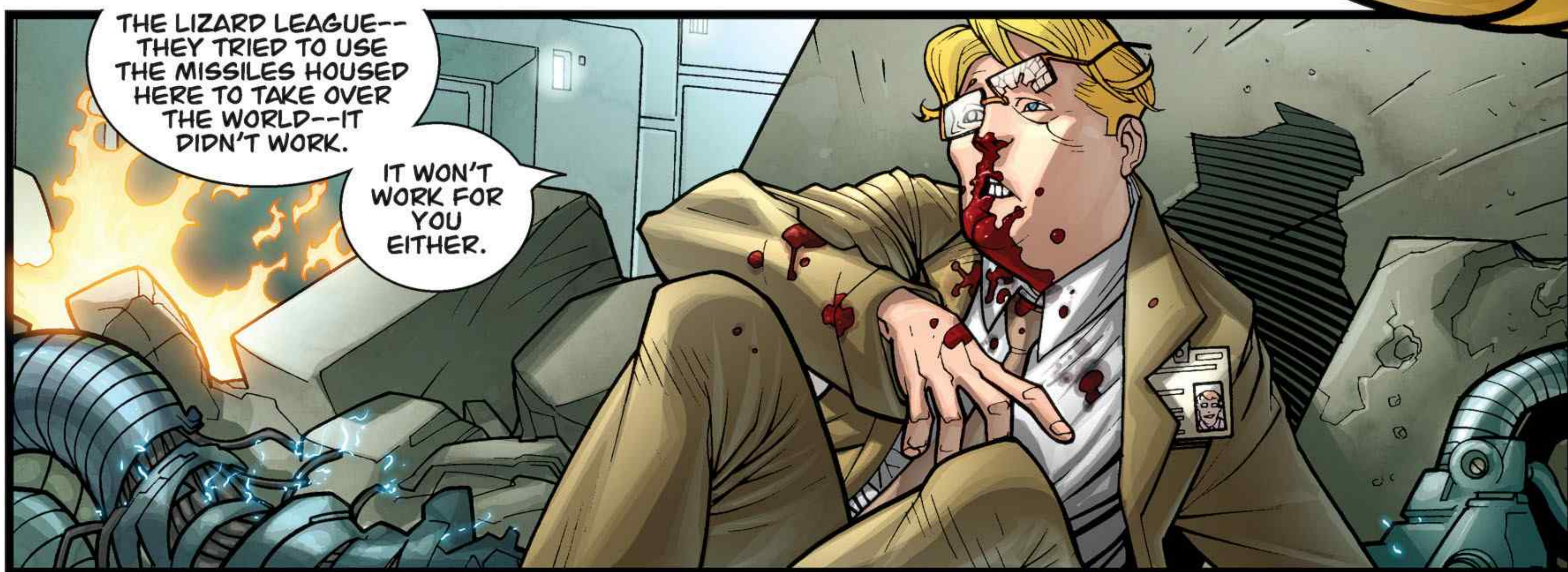
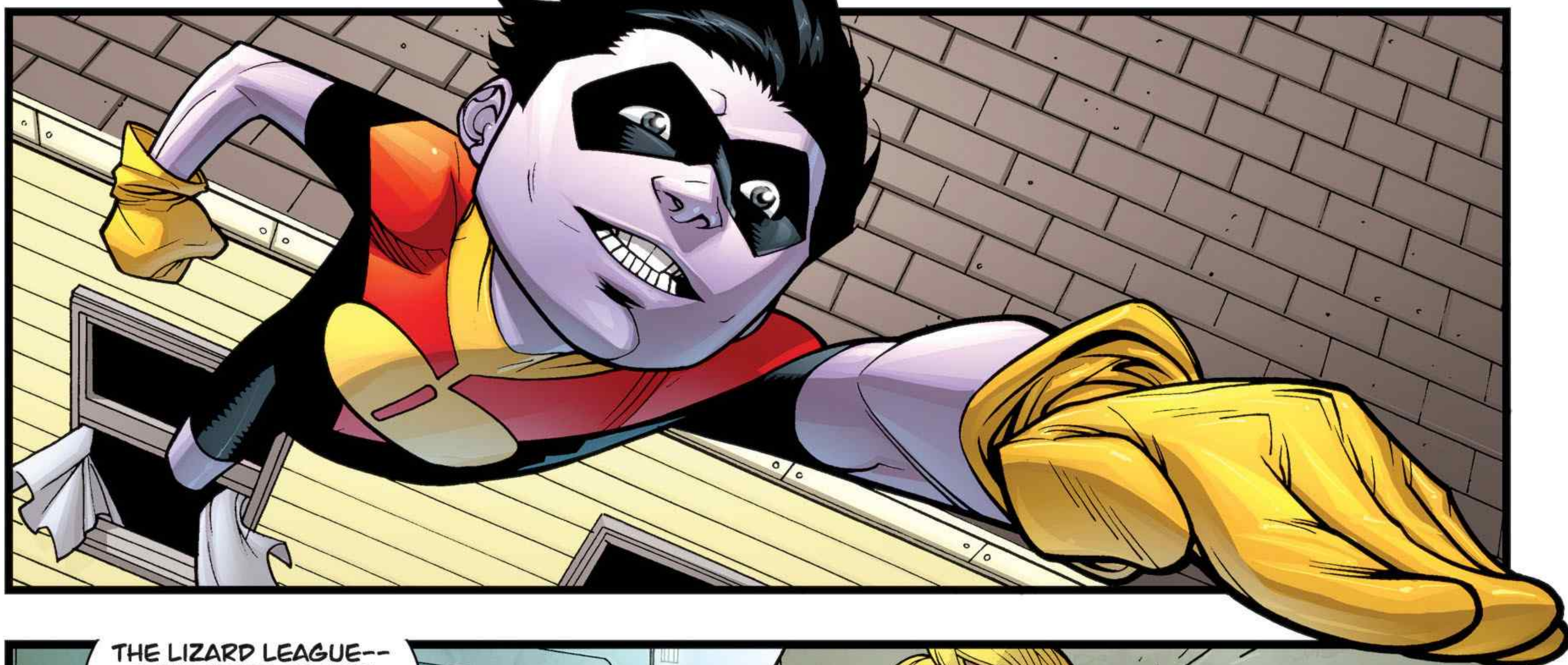
SO WELL. YOU CUT ME OFF. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WORKED SO WELL.

I TOLD YOU IT WOULD WORK THAT WELL.

I THINK I'M THE ORIGINAL CLONE. YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY SUFFERING FROM EXTENSIVE DEGRADATION.

WON'T WORK. WHATEVER YOU'RE TRYING... SOMEONE WILL STOP YOU. SOMEONE--







WE DON'T NEED THE WHOLE WORLD-- THE ENTIRE COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE OF THIS PLANET WILL BE ENOUGH.

WE'RE GOING TO LAUNCH ONE OF YOUR MISSILES INTO SPACE-- TO DETONATE IN THE SUN. THE RESULTING SOLAR FLARE WILL BE THE LARGEST IN RECORDED HISTORY.

ALL SATELLITE BASED FORMS OF COMMUNICATION WILL BE OFFLINE-- INDEFINITELY.



OR RATHER--THEY WILL BE UNTIL WE BRING THEM BACK ONLINE--UNDER OUR CONTROL.

ENTIRE NATIONS WILL HAVE TO PAY US FOR THE RIGHT TO CONVERSE. THOSE WHO OPPOSE US CAN BE MANIPULATED INTO WAR.

WE WON'T "RULE" THE WORLD... BUT WE WILL CONTROL IT.



SORRY-- I WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE SOONER BUT HAD TROUBLE FINDING THE PLACE!

WHY ARE YOU HERE?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



I'M HELPING YOU-- SEE?!

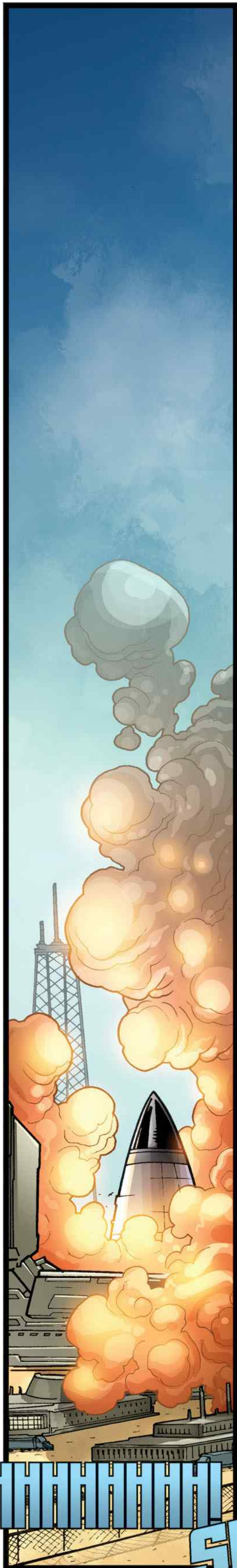


NO!

YOU'RE NOT READY FOR THIS! GET OUT OF HERE!

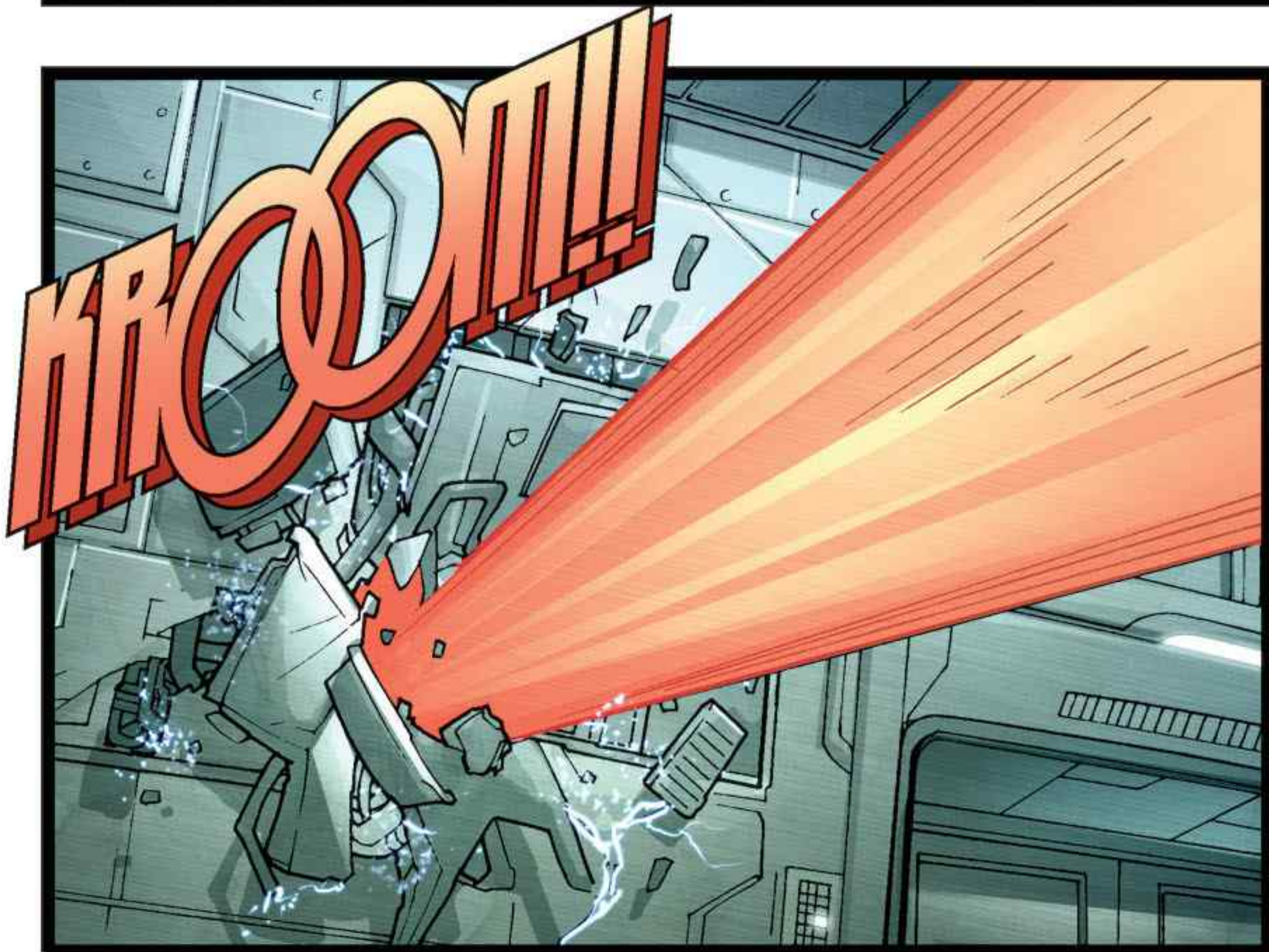
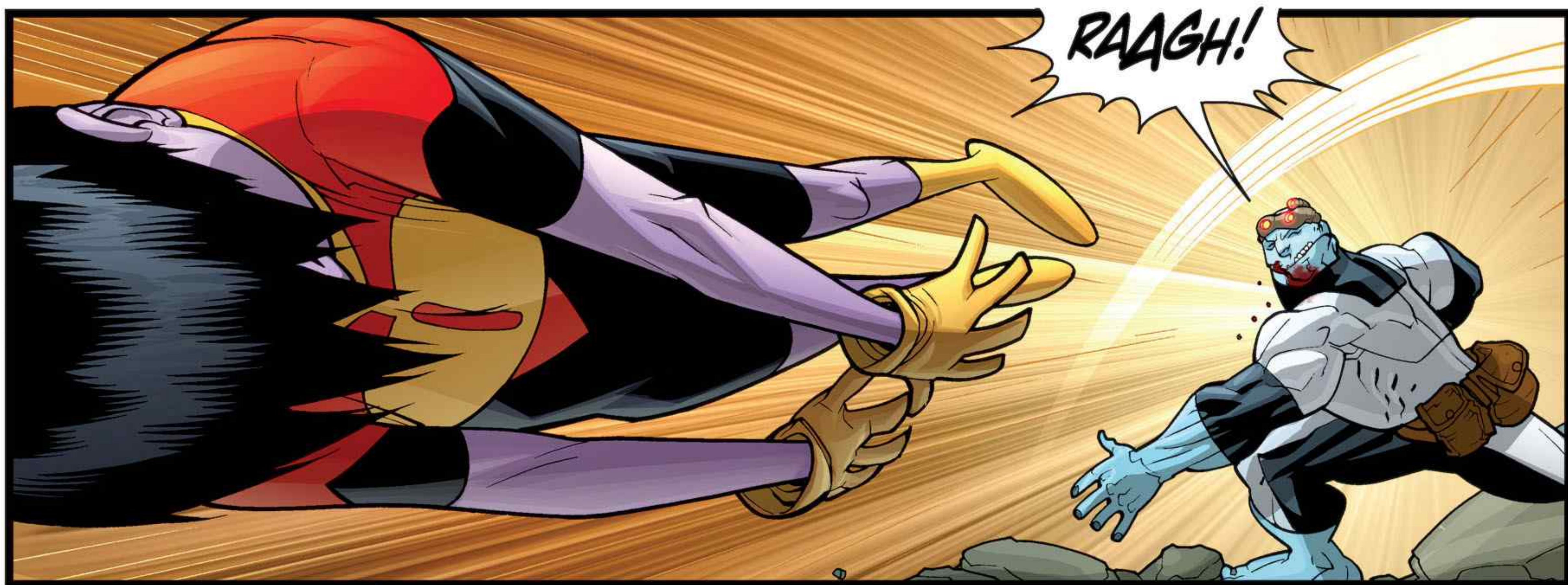
NOW!



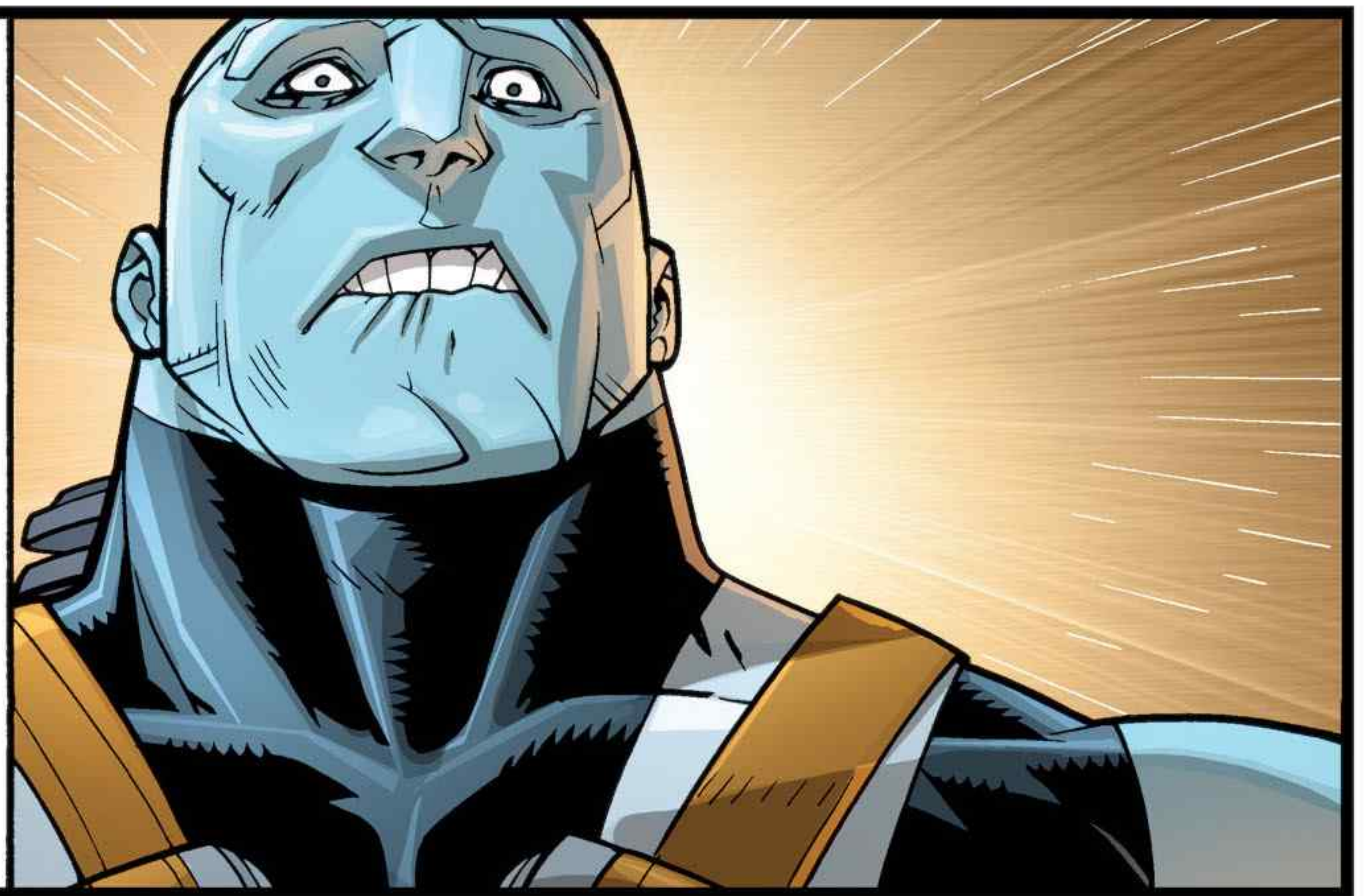
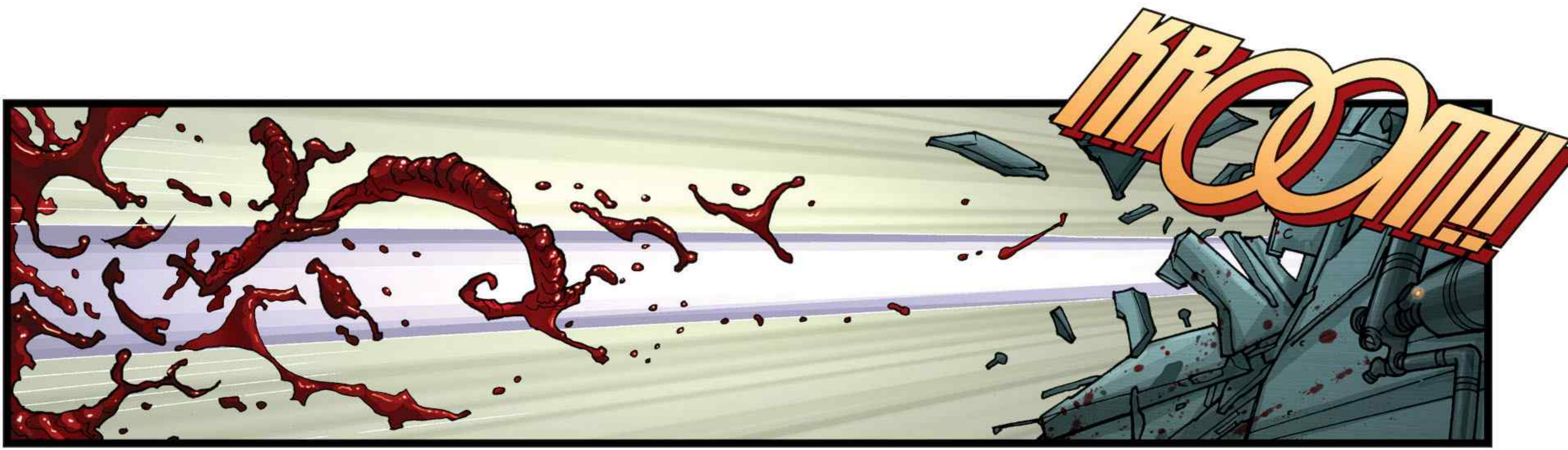


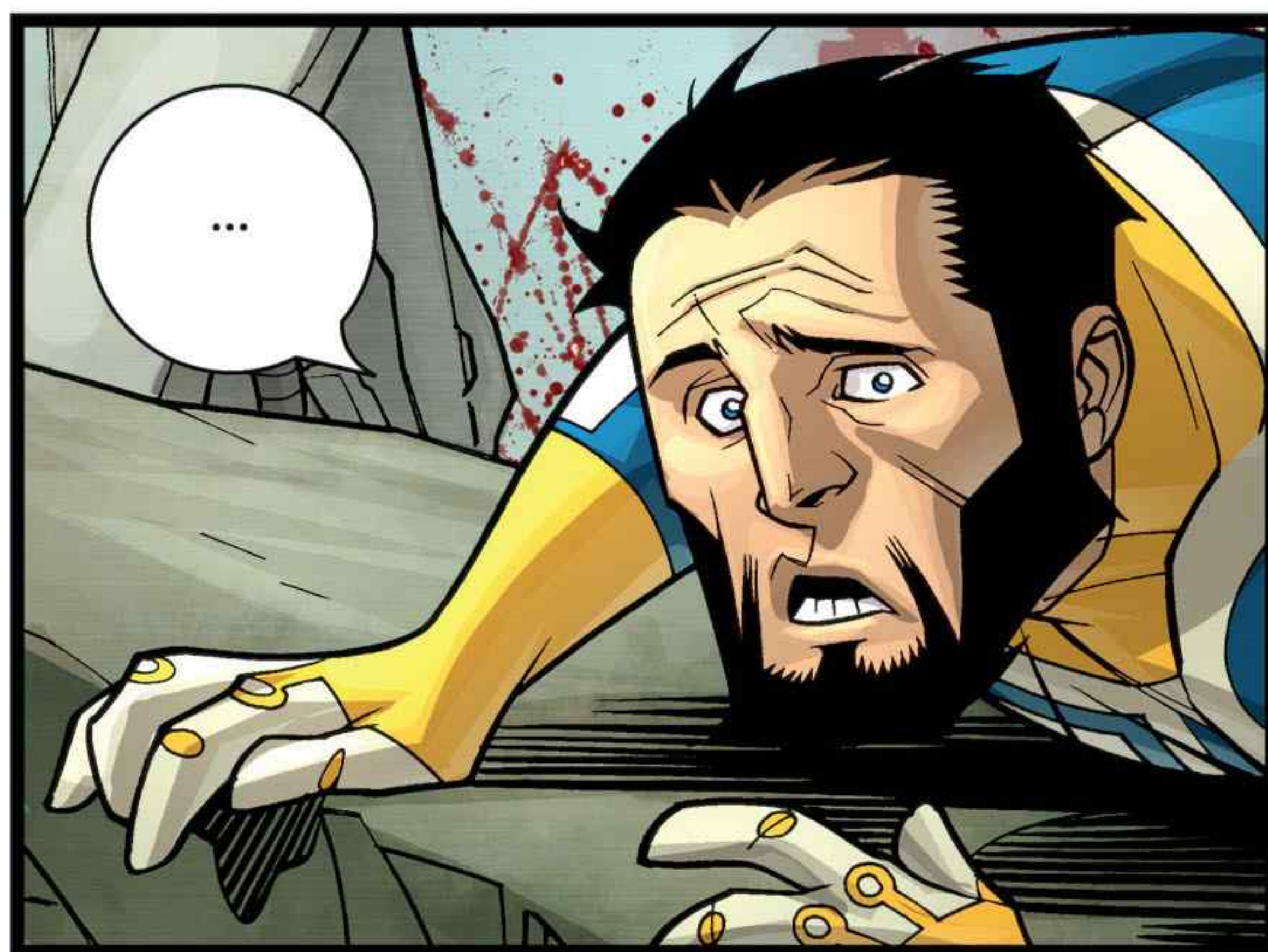
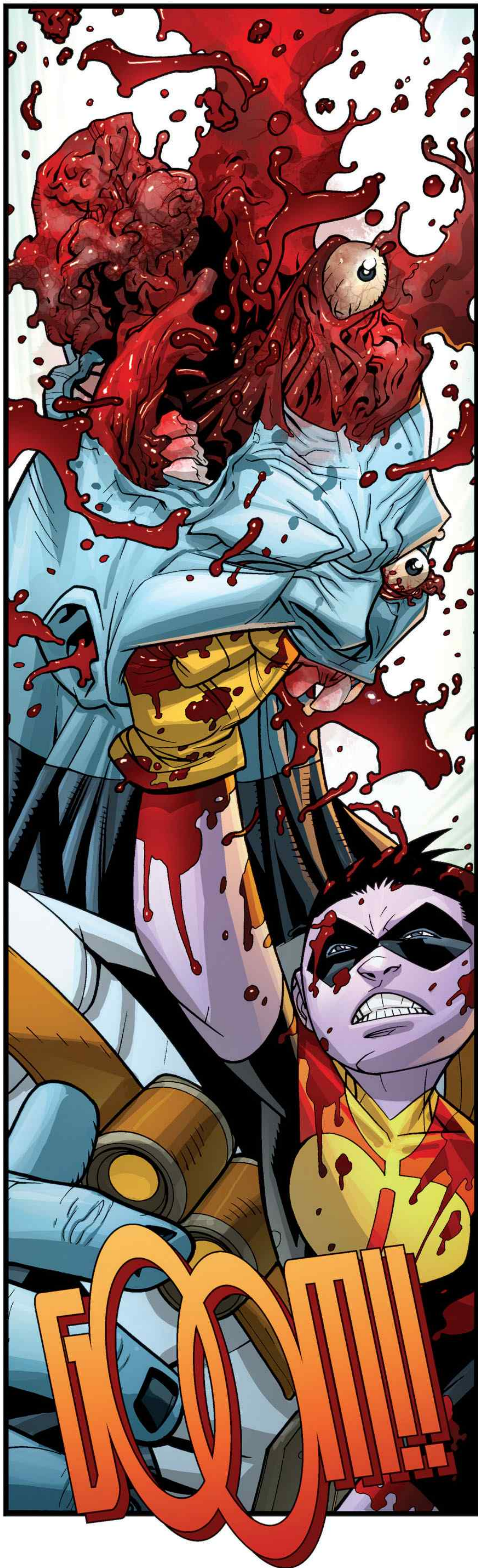
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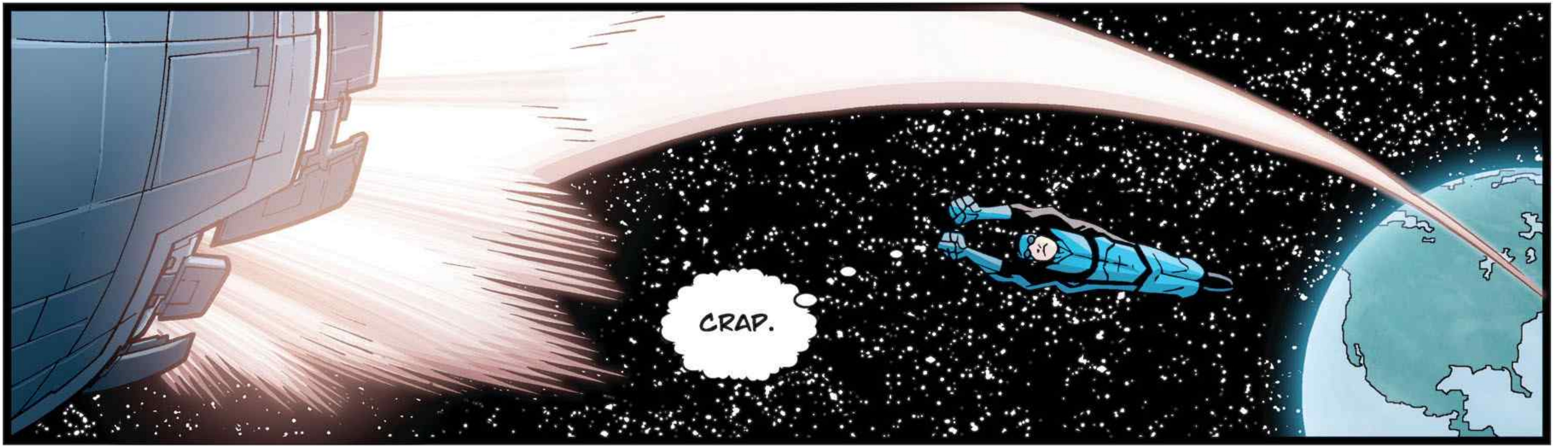


















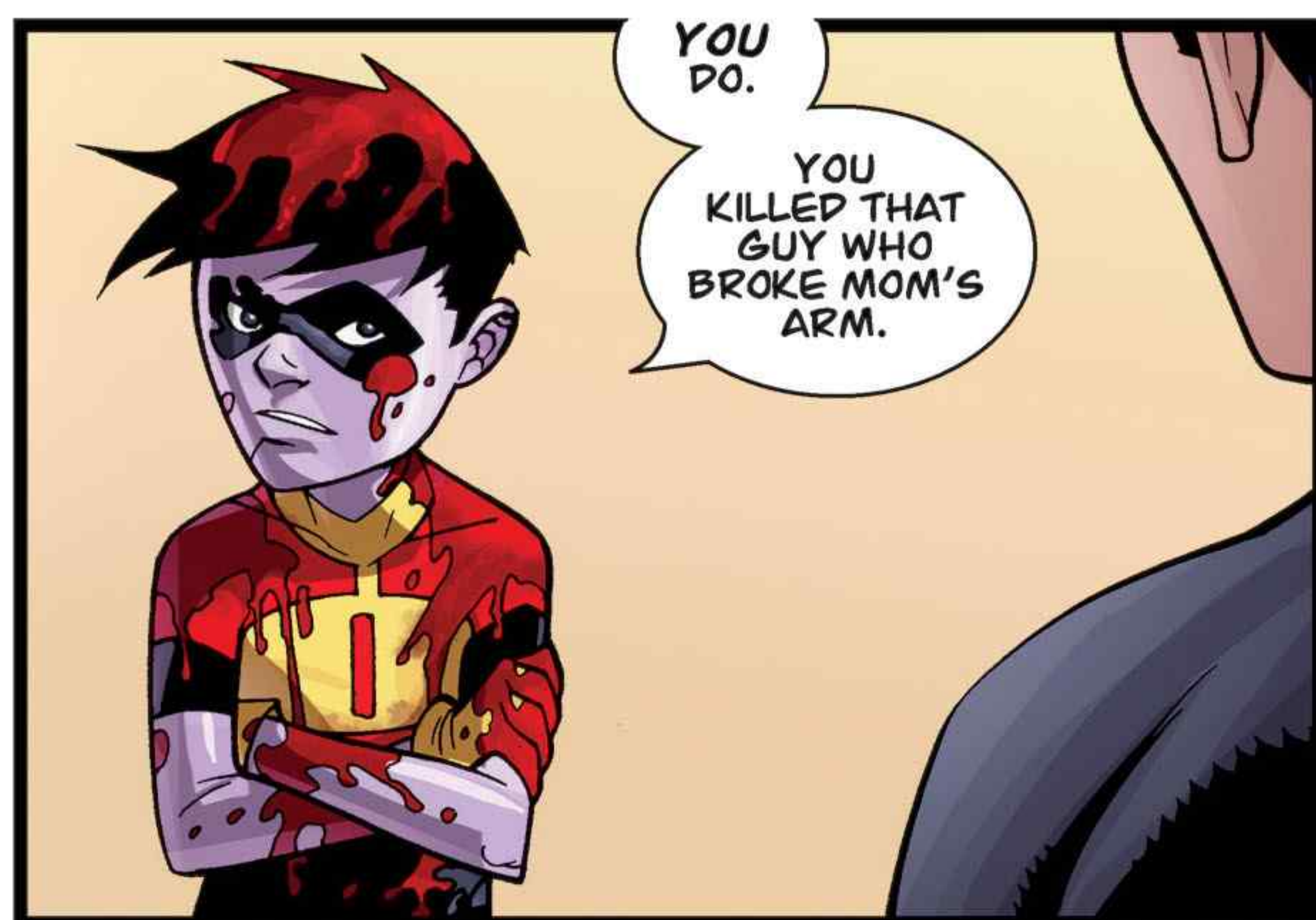


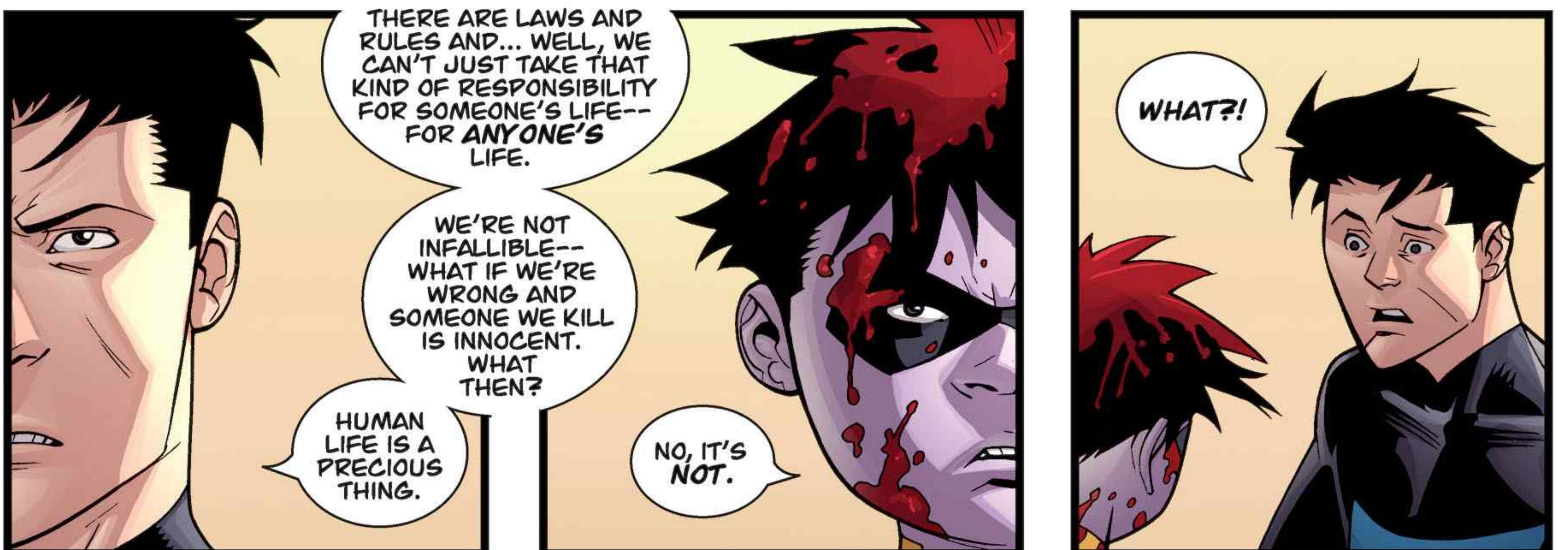
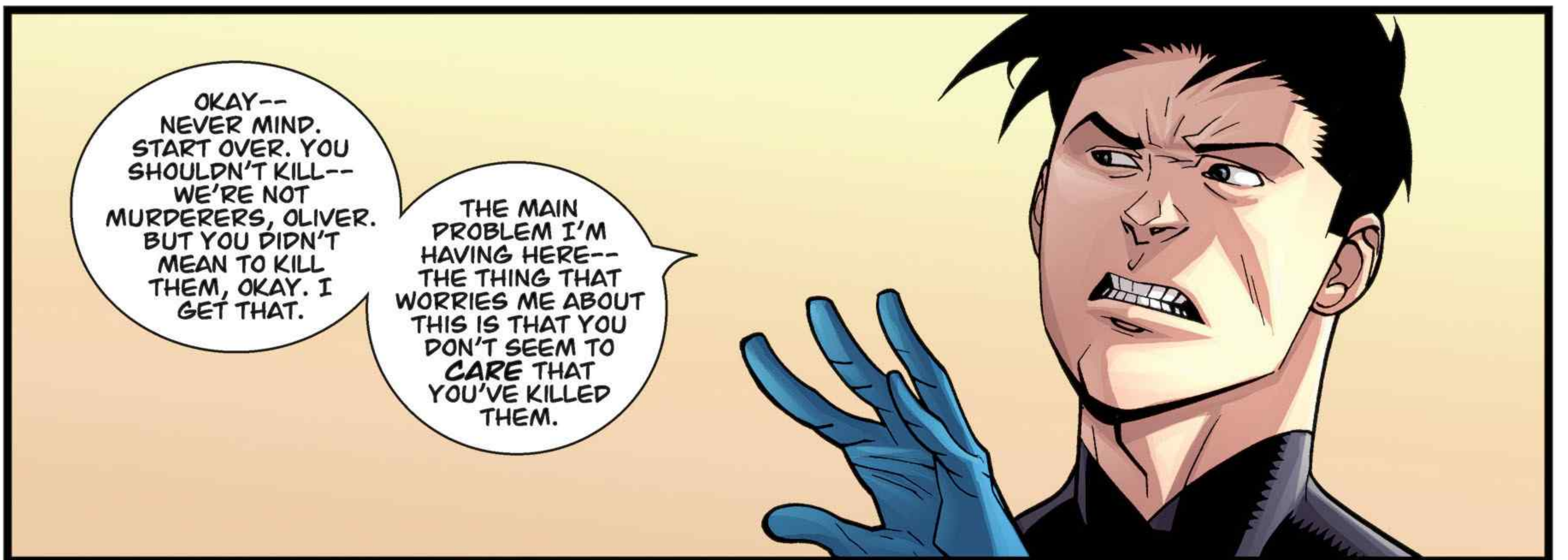
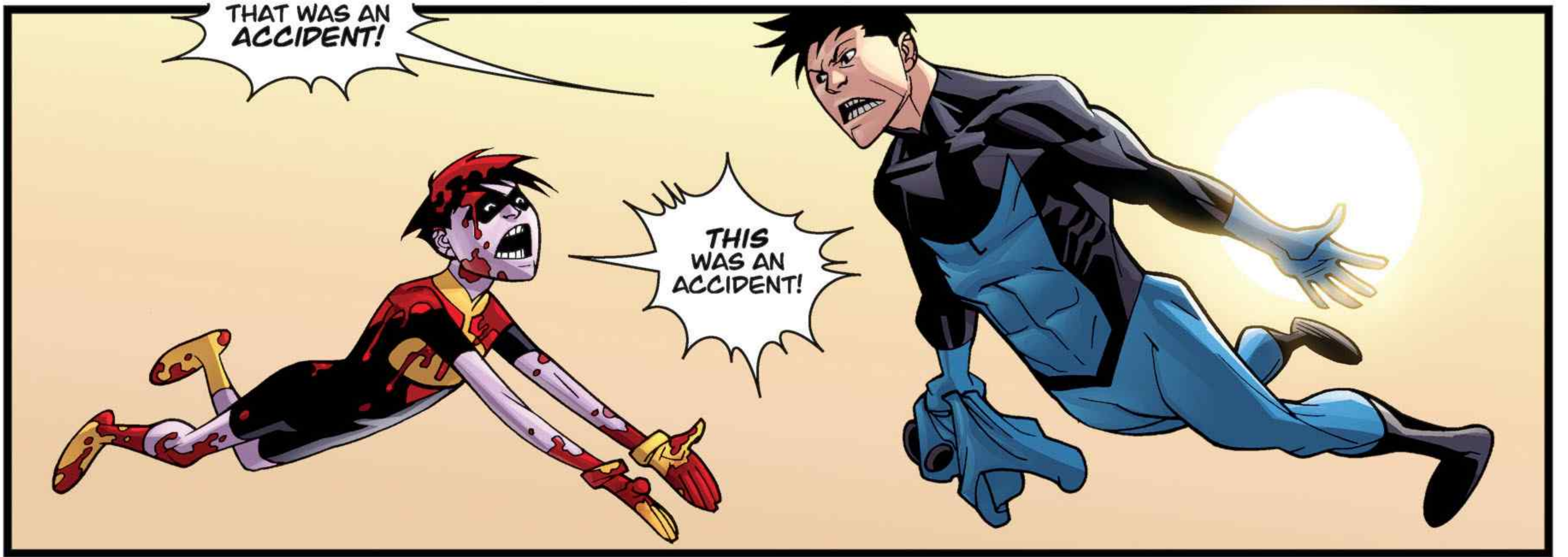
I TOLD YOU--I WARNED YOU. STAY OUT OF MY LIFE--LEAVE ME AND MY FAMILY ALONE!

WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

INVINCIBLE, CALM DOWN. I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU... I'M JUST HERE TO CLEAN UP YOUR BROTHER'S MESS.









WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 1870
RICHMOND, KY 40476

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM



So yeah... here we are at Invincible 52.

I gotta say, I'm really proud of how this stretch of issues is turning out. I think 50-59 might shape up to be the best "decade" of Invincible issues yet. Here's hoping I'm right... be sure to write in and let me know... or you can hit my message board at imagecomics.com which is easily accessible from kirkmania.com... So yeah... go to those websites.

FCO Plascencia has really hit the ground running on this series and Ryan and I couldn't be happier with what he's done so far. He had some really big shoes to fill after Bill Crabtree left and he's filled them admirably. So take a bow FCO, you're doing a fine job.

I'm not going to hold things up any longer--let's dive into some mail, shall we?

Dear Kirkman,
More good stuff as we wrap up the mini-Image crossover fight with Dr. Seismic. We finally get the build to issue 50 (really quick there, Kirkman) and the return of both Darkwing and the Reanimen served the story well. This issue has me salivating for issue 50, so I have to say good job with that, Robert. On to the handy numbered questions and such:

1. The pinup by Rob Hough is just plain amazing in the back. You plan on putting anything together with him anytime soon? Or at least let us know if he's got anything in the works.

Rob, is that you? Rob Hough is certainly talented but I'm currently all booked up. I really don't know what Rob is working on right now. There's this thing called the internet that would probably help you out there.

2. Any plan on an Invincible Annual? I think it would be cool to give some other artist(s) a chance to draw some Invincible goodness.

You'll hear about this eventually... I would like to do one, but there is currently no plans.

3. Any hopes of either an ongoing Techjacket or Capes series?

I'd love to... BUY MORE BRIT!!

4. Just finished Invincible Presents Atom Eve as well. Any chance of having Benito Cereno writing either of those projects or something else set in the Kirk-verse?

As leaked at the Image panel at Comic-Con this year... Benito (and Nate) are indeed going to be working on something that rhymes with Dimwincible Blevents: Dex Rhode... look for it late 2008/early 2009 assuming Nate can stay on schedule with Brit.

5. When is the Todd McFarlane project you're working on coming out, and you got anymore juicy details about it?

There will be announcements on this very VERY soon.

Been loving the posts on the Kirkmania mailing list, even if they do reveal the real reason for our beloved Kirk-comics delays. Damn you and your Mario addiction!

I promise it didn't interfere with work at all.

Anyhow keep the comics coming (preferably on time), and until then Image is It! (Yeah, um... got to say that still doesn't work so much.)

Nicholas Ahlhelm

On time--yeah, I'll see what I can do about that.

Kirkman Actual:

I still have faith in you.

But first, let me add my voice to those calling for a "Atom Eve -- Year One" series. The panel with Sam hiding from her evil sibs praying was a hilarious character-defining moment that cries out for continuation. It would be perfect for my granddaughters and grandnieces.

That's certainly something to think about...

Now on to why I still have faith in you.

Of course you know I'm talking about Cecil. When he first appeared I was pleasantly surprised that he wasn't the typical Evil Military Bureaucrat™. As I read more of your titles, I came to expect greater character depth (playing with the Teleporter, etc) and few or no stereotypes.

Cecil has to deal with the fact that Mark is still a Vultrumite. And we have seen a greater and greater expression of Mark's rage. I don't believe Cecil will descend into another cliché. You're too good for that.

Cecil isn't that much of a bad guy, y'know... he and Mark kind of just had a disagreement and parted ways.

On to the mandatory questions:

#1: If Monster Girl can be cured by science, maybe she can be cured by (wait for it) Science Dog!?

Science Dog doesn't really exist in the Invincible Universe--he's only a comic.

#2: Can Angstrom Levy be retcon'ed back to life? Pretty please with a cherry and your very own pony?

See last issue. Heh.

#3: When I see Mark wearing his Invincible goggles I think of Mark Mothersbaugh of Devo. But without them I don't. Does that mean secret identities governed by spectacles work?

Yep.

#4: The guy at Lone Star Comics tried to get me to buy some DC titles. I said if DC had any brains they would have hired you (Kirkman), but they don't and Marvel did. All the same, did they (DC) ever talk to you? Were you interested?

Not until recently they didn't. And for now at least... I wasn't interested.

#5: What is the state of the various Kirkman movie projects?

Various Movie projects? Do you know something I don't? Invincible was at Paramount but that option has lapsed and because of that there are some very exciting things happening with it... like the MTV motion comics thing... and other stuff (fingers crossed). There are certainly other things in the oven... but nothings quite done or ready to be announced yet.

#6: How were you personally with franchising out Atom Eve? Do you have any interest in nurturing a stable of writers to create a line of Invincible-universe comics?

I don't want to dilute the Invincible brand too much. We'll do maybe one mini-series a year... that's about it.

Regards,
Raj

Thanks for writing, Raj.

Kirkman!

Yes! Cory Walker and you on a MAX imprint title. Plus, Cory Walker's art is always a sweet treat to see; the son of a bitch got even better. I wouldn't be surprised if Marvel or DC didn't try to get him exclusive.

Let's hope not...

I think your creator-owned titles feature your best work, so I'm ecstatic to hear you'll be let loose on this comic.

Me too. At this point I'm actually completely done writing it (which is rare for me to be so far ahead) and I can confirm that it is indeed, awesome. Cory's doing the work of his career on this thing... I'm very excited.

I love the artwork promoting your message board. Is there a possibility putting that artwork on a t-shirt? I would buy it cause I'm weird like that.

Sophea Uk

I don't think many people would want to have me sitting on the toilet on a T-Shirt... but maybe I'm wrong. If there's enough demand I will happily sell the crap out of that shirt. I have no shame!

Dear Kirkman,

First I'd like to say I don't know how you do it but Invincible just keeps getting better with each issue (I'm guessing you made some sort of deal with the devil) with issue 50 coming up I have a couple questions.

Trust me, if there was a deal with the devil made... I'd be relaxing on a beach somewhere instead of sitting in my basement answering your emails... otherwise a deal with the devil would be kind of crappy, right?

1. Will we be seeing Battle Beast again? Rematch????

Soon. Very soon.

2. Are we going to see any sort of crossover with some of the other Image characters (Brit, Astonishing Wolf-Man, Firebreather, Noble Causes, etc) for the Hopefully upcoming Viltrumite War?

Invincible 57 and The Astounding Wolf-Man 11 are going to be a two-part crossover story! So there's that--and there will probably be more after that. I really do love me some Firebreather!

3. How long do you plan on writing Invincible because it would be great to see Invincible #200

At this point, I don't see myself ever stopping writing Invincible... but that could change as I get older. I think I have at least 200 issues in me... let's just hope sales warrant it.

4. I know works of art take time and all that but any chance of Invincible coming out more than once a month?

Probably not but we'll see.

5. When are we going to see another father son reunion?

Soon... maybe?

Keep up the Great Work & bring back Tech Jacket!

Thanks,
Jason Shaheen-

Where the hell were all you people when Tech Jacket was originally shipping? Keep buying that TPB and I'll eventually bring Tech Jacket back some way.

Hey there, Robert,

I just read that 2-part Atom Eve special and I just really felt the need to write to you. I've never written into anything like this before, partially because I've never felt the need to (though, I was EXTREMELY close after reading The Walking Dead #48), but after this I really just feel like I need to get this off my chest. Call me a suck-up, but I really think you are one of the most talented writers out there. From comics to books to television to movies, I have never felt this strongly about ANY fictional characters as I do for yours. That last page sent chills down my spine. And in Invincible, when she got all pissed at Mark after confronting him about whether he liked her, and she ended up storming out; I'd usually write that off as annoying girl nonsense that they'll get over eventually when they decide not to be irrational. Not this time. I was actually sympathizing with her. I CARED! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE?! Actually, I'm sure you do. Anyway, man, I'm in college for writing right now, and I really hope that one day I'll be able to bring my characters to life half as well as you do. Back to finals I guess...

Keep up the good work, dude.
-Steve

Thanks man... I worked REALLY hard on that Atom Eve series and I'm glad you enjoyed it. Y'know... I spend so much time alone writing and I don't often hear back about a lot of the work I do... I mean, not like this. This is very gratifying, it's good to know that you appreciate my work on that kind of level. It warms my heart and makes all the hours I put into this seem worthwhile.

Y'know... I'd leave it at this and I know Benito would get it... but I don't think everyone else reading this would. I didn't write the Atom Eve series in question... that honor went to Benito Cereno. Next time you LOOOOVE a comic so much... try reading the credits page, JERK! (joking)

Dear Robert, Ryan, et al,

I just caught up to Invincible after belatedly getting into it this year (this is par for the course for me, as I also just got into "Lost" this year) and I was blown away by how good it is. First of all, I'm a standup comedian and comedy writer by trade, and as someone who makes people laugh for a living, I have a very high bar set for humor in a comic. Almost no superhero comics are actually funny, JLI, Ambush Bug, sure, but pretty rare is the one that really delivers, and yours is hilarious. As well as poignant, scary, thrilling, emotional, and everything else you want a good story to be. But there is a thing that is really starting to bug me in the comments about your comic, that it is somehow a throw back to 80's or 70's comics. This is nonsense. This is one of the most cutting edge books I have ever read. Ryan Ottley's art is light years beyond the art of the 80's in storytelling, character design, figure rendering, every aspect of the artists' medium. He is up there with the real greats like Dave Gibbons and Steve Rude, with a fun cartoonish quality that is very modern. His character

designs use many anime elements that were not present in the art of the 80's and could only come from today. And Crabtree's colors are sublime. No Bronze Age book is colored like this. The content of the story is full of post-modern touches that 80's comics hadn't even considered before Alan Moore. And I have never seen a story in any decade that mixes meta-commentary on comic books and pastiche of existing characters with a story in which you actually care about the characters. The violence is excruciating. The fights between Mark and his dad, or Mark and his dad and the Viltrumites on Mars are beyond anything the 80's creators would even attempt. I have never seen a mainstream superhero comic depict a battle with as high a body count and genuine a sense of terror and desperation as the Guardians' battle with the Lizard League in the nuclear missile silo. Mr. Kirkman's horror background shone through very well. Also, No eighties comic ever launched with the sense of purpose and the driving through line of the Viltrumite menace that this book has incorporated since the beginning. The sense that all 50 issues have been one epic story is not at all something you can find in 50 issues of any 80's comic. My point is that Invincible is CUTTING EDGE COMICS, it has elements of the classics but elements that are completely modern and the synthesis of the two is innovative in the extreme. What people respond to I think is the Paul Levitz style subplotting that has fallen out of favor in the decompressed era, but this is just a classic element of comic storytelling to me, it doesn't belong to any era. Keep making your masterpiece, gentlemen. Your cutting edge 2008 style masterpiece.

Shameless plug for me (I totally understand if this doesn't make it in the letter if you print it but I gotta try) watch me this August on the Tonight Show and on VH-1's 100 best Hard Rock Songs of all Time, and look for my album, "Dressed for Recess" in stores nationwide!

John Roy
www.johnroylive.com

First off, thanks for all the kind words. The silver age comment does get to me sometimes but y'know... if people like it and read it I really don't care WHY they like it. Second, I'll include your plug, even though I think this issue may not ship in August... because you're actually a really funny comedian. I don't find a lot of comedians funny these days... I mean, I love Patton Oswalt and Brian Posehn as much as the next nerd, and Doug Stanhope kills me... but for the most part a lot of guys just aren't that funny... but you, You John Roy... are funny. So even if everyone else gets this message after you're on the Tonight Show in August... I for one, will be watching. So don't blow it!

Now, that's it for the letters column but we're not done with you yet, if you look over there to the right you'll see a pretty sweet pin-up by Shaun O'neil. Shaun came up to me at the recent Heroes Con in Charlotte, North Carolina to show me his portfolio. Now, I don't do portfolio reviews at cons (unless you're good) because it's a pain to have some poor guy standing in front of you who kinda sucks, but is trying really hard... but just can't pull it off. I mean, if the world was fair, hard work would be enough--but it's just not, and most guys showing portfolios around at cons kinda suck because of that. The thing is, the best thing for these people would be if I shook them and said "you're probably really good at something that would be easier to make a living at--try that!" But I don't want to get a reputation as a mean guy... and so I usually pussyfoot around and compliment the one good thing ("you're panel borders are straight") and then move on... so yeah... I hate looking at portfolios at cons... BUT when it's guys like Shaun O'neil I really dig it.

He's a talented dude... and his pin-up is good. So enjoy, and hopefully you'll be seeing more of this dude very soon.

And THAT'S it for letters this month... see you all back here very soon for issue 53.

-Robert Kirkman
www.kirkmania.com

NEXT ISSUE

